

**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

In re:	Keith A. Etling	Confirmation No.:	9125
Appl. No.:	10/749,762	Group Art Unit:	3676
Filed:	December 31, 2003	Examiner:	Alison K. Pickard
For:	APPARATUS AND METHOD FOR SEALING SURFACES		

Mail Stop Amendment  
Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

**INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT  
UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(c)**

Sir:

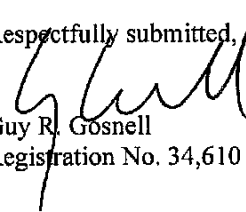
Attached is a list of documents on form PTO-1449 along with a copy of any cited foreign patent documents and non-patent literature document in accordance with 37 CFR 1.98(a)(2). Also enclosed is a translation or a concise explanation of each non-English language document. These documents were first cited in the International Search Report for the corresponding International Application Number PCT/US2004/042946. A copy of the Search Report is also enclosed.

It is requested that the Examiner consider these documents and officially make them of record in accordance with the provisions of 37 C.F.R. § 1.97 and Section 609 of the MPEP. By identifying the listed documents, Applicant in no way makes any admission as to the prior art status of the listed documents, but is instead identifying the listed documents for the sake of full disclosure.

This Information Disclosure Statement is submitted in accordance with 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(c), before final Office Action or Allowance, whichever is earlier.

A check for the \$180.00 fee specified in 37 C.F.R. § 1.17(p) is enclosed. The Commissioner is authorized to charge any additional fee, or credit any refund, to our Deposit Account No. 16-0605.

Respectfully submitted,

  
Guy R. Gosnell  
Registration No. 34,610

**CUSTOMER NO. 00826**  
**ALSTON & BIRD LLP**  
Bank of America Plaza  
101 South Tryon Street, Suite 4000  
Charlotte, NC 28280-4000  
Tel Charlotte Office (704) 444-1000  
Fax Charlotte Office (704) 444-1111

**ELECTRONICALLY FILED USING THE EFS-WEB ELECTRONIC FILING SYSTEM OF THE  
UNITED STATES PATENT & TRADEMARK OFFICE ON March 26, 2007 by Gwen Frickhoeffer.**

Substitute for form 1449/PTO (Revised 07/2005)  <b>INFORMATION DISCLOSURE          STATEMENT BY APPLICANT</b> <i>(Use as many sheets as necessary)</i>				<b>Complete if Known</b>		
				Application Number	10/749,762	
				Filing Date	December 31, 2003	
				First Named Inventor	Keith A. Etling	
				Group Art Unit	3676	
Examiner Name	Alison K. Pickard					
Sheet	1	of	1	Attorney Docket Number	038190/269125	

**U. S. PATENT DOCUMENTS**

Examiner Initials*	Cite No.	Document Number Number - Kind Code (if known)	Publication Date MM-DD-YYYY	Name of Patentee or Applicant of Cited Document	Pages, Columns, Lines, Where Relevant Passages of Relevant Figures Appear
	1	US-5,126,185A	06-30-1992	Forrest, et al.	
	2	US-5,941,061A	08-24-1999	Sherry, et al.	

**FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS**

Examiner Initials	Cite No.	Foreign Patent Document Country Code - Number Kind Code (if known)	Publication Date MM-DD-YYYY	Name of Patentee or Applicant of Cited Document	Pages, Columns, Lines, Where Relevant Passages or Relevant Figures Appear	English Language Translation Attached
	3	EP 0 654 625 A	05-24-1995	W.L. Gore & Associates		Abstract Only
	4	EP 0 822 357 A	02-04-1998	W.L. Gore & Associates		Abstract Only
	5	EP 1 103 461 A	05-30-2001	GKN Westland Helicopters Limited; Westland Helicopters Limited		N/A

**OTHER DOCUMENTS**

Examiner Initials*	Cite No.	Include name of the author (in CAPITAL LETTERS), title of the article (when appropriate), title of the item (book, magazine, journal, serial, symposium, catalog, etc.), date, page(s), volume/issue number(s), publisher, city and/or country where published.	English Language Translation Attached
	6	PCT International Search Report, PCT/US2004/042946, dated July 25, 2005.	N/A

Examiner Signature		Date Considered	
--------------------	--	-----------------	--

\*Examiner: Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609. Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant.